

The Wisconsin State Sunday School Union Convention commenced its annual session in the Congregational Church of this city, last evening. There are over 300 delegates present.

The church was crowded, every seat being filled, and the aisles filled up to the pulpit.

The Convention was called to order by Deacon W. H. Byron, President of the Union. Rev. Mr. Goodspeed, in an earnest, heartfelt speech, welcomed the delegates to the hearts and homes of our citizens. President Byron responded in his usual happy style.

Ralph Wells, President of the New York City Sunday School Teachers' Union, then proceeded to address the Convention, taking up the "welcome" given by the preceding speakers, and urged on the teachers present to so labor in bringing the children under their care to the feet of Jesus, that they may receive a "welcome" from our Divine Master.

Mr. Wurts, Cor. Sec'y of the American Sunday School Union, gave greetings from Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. He was followed by Mr. Lucius Hart, of New York city, whose pleasing style of interesting singing in his remarks, always makes him a great favorite in Sabbath School Conventions. In closing his remarks he struck up our national anthem, "My country 'tis of thee." He had sung but a part of the first line before the whole congregation rose to their feet and united their voices with his in this beautiful hymn.

Rev. J. H. Vincent, of Rockford, Ill., next addressed the Convention. He made a very forcible point on "theocracy and democracy"—that instructing children in Sabbath Schools was but carrying out the idea of the Jewish nation in olden times. He then spoke of the difference between Sunday School instruction in England and America. In the former country, as a general rule, but the poorer children were gathered in the Sunday Schools, while in our own country all were gathered together. His speech bristled the patriot and christian, and many times the audience were only restrained from heartfelt applause out of reverence to the house of God.

"Marching along" was then sung. A letter was read from K. A. Burnell, of the U. S. Christian commission.

Addresses were also made by many gentlemen from abroad.

After the appointment of necessary committees, the convention adjourned to a prayer meeting at half past five this morning.

The prayer meeting at 8:30 this morning was very largely attended. At six o'clock it adjourned for breakfast. At eight o'clock the Convention again met for prayer and conference.

At nine o'clock President Byron read the following annual report:

In reviewing my labors for the year past, while I have been providentially prevented from prosecuting my missionary work with the unremitting constancy I most earnestly desired, and for which the wants of our State loudly call, I am nevertheless most grateful for having been permitted to pursue it during a portion of the year, with much pleasure and profit to myself, and not wholly without the hope of having been the humble instrument of promoting the heavenly blessed means of saving the young.

At the last anniversary in Milwaukee I received many invitations to visit different sections of the State to attend County Sabbath School conventions, and help to stimulate the Sunday School force, to increase diligence. To these I most cheerfully responded, by attending the Walworth County Convention at Oshkosh, the third week in June, from thence I proceeded to Oshkosh attending the Winnebago Co. Convention, and immediately thereafter a Sunday School Celebration in Waupesa Co., and spent several weeks in visiting a number of places in Waupesa, Portage, Wood, Adams and Columbia Counties, concluding my tour by attending the Dodge Co. Sunday School Convention at Beaver Dam.

The meeting held during this delightful trip were of more than ordinary interest, and from obvious indications from at least one of them, I cannot but hope that some precious young souls were folded in the arms of Christ, and blessed with spiritual renewal by the Holy Ghost. After returning home for a few days' rest, I again left on a general exploration of the Southern portion of the State.

The promised blessing of Divine increase upon the sowing and watering by the faithful servants of God, was most significantly realizing in a small village at which I spent some time during this missionary sojourn. The only stated religious service on the Sabbath in a long time previous had been an interesting Union Sabbath School. Before my arrival here I learned the Lord was indeed there.

Two or three active and devoted young female Sabbath School teachers from neighboring places recently converted, had impatient relatives and friends in the town. Seeing the fields already ripe, unto the harvest, and constrained by the love of Christ, they went out visiting from house to house, praying in the families, telling the story of the cross in the melting tenderness of Divine love, holding neighborly prayer meetings, and thus began to reap and gather into the garner of the Lord. The cry was soon heard: "What must I do to be saved?" Beginning with the members of the Sabbath School, many of the young of the place were made alive from the dead by the renewing of the Holy Ghost. The occasional service of a missionary of the Sunday School Union and one or two Ministers from adjoining places (among them one of the excellent Pastors from Janesville), were obtained to join in the work, and the ministry of the word. The warm hearted and judicious labors of these men of God following up and wisely assisting the efforts of these devoted women who have "done what they could," resulted in one of the most precious revivals it has been my privilege ever to enjoy. In the midst of harvest, while the fruits of the earth were being gathered,

was there superadded the greater number of souls.

From this place in which "I loved to dwell," I went to Monroe, the county seat, and on Sabbath the 9th, of August, held some interesting meetings. At this place I was taken sick. The arduous labors of the harvest which so largely occupied the time and attention of the people, and the oppressive heat of the weather, seemed providentially to determine that the further prosecution of my work in this section be deferred until the early autumn.

On the 20th of August I left for Troy, N. Y., to attend the annual Convention of Sunday School teachers of that State, hoping thereby to gain such information and become so imbued with zeal and self-consecration to my work as to increase my usefulness in my own sphere. My expectations were more than realized. The important reports there made, the able and animated discussion of practical topics, but more than all the heavenly spirit prevailing the entire session, will long be remembered with pleasure and I trust permanent benefit. The friendships and christian sympathy manifested the previous year were renewed, extended and strengthened, and I believe the Divine benediction was not withheld. From Troy I went, at the urgent solicitations of friends in various places in eastern New York, including New York city and Brooklyn, to visit Sabbath Schools, at teachers' associations, and converse with the best and most experienced, as well as the most successful, Sunday School laborers of that section, and returned the latter part of September enriched with much valuable information, which I hope to make useful by disseminating it in my future labors.

Immediately thereafter I matured my plans to continue on in my work, with the new impulse received, and on the 3d of October again entered the field from which my journey for a few weeks had called me. But after holding but two meetings I was suddenly taken sick, and for the first time since I engaged in the Sabbath School missionary work had to recall my anticipated appointments. I seemed to get better once, twice, thrice, and proceeded to meet appointments at different places, when a renewed attack overtook me of such severity as to entirely suspend my endeavors for the remainder of the year, and up to the present time, with the exception of attending one meeting at Watertown last week, the breaks hereby made in my purpose have been the occasion of much regret and self-doubt. But as the winter proved so severe, and the impassable condition of the roads to a large extent, rendered the attendance of meetings mostly impossible, I could but regard it as providential in withholding me from exposures by which very likely more severe and possibly fatal diseases might have been contracted, and in the mean time the discipline of my Master has been productive of good to myself in the experience of his mercy and the exceeding riches of his grace, whereby I hope to be better qualified and the more perfectly to do his will.

During the time of my appointment by this union I have visited almost every point in the State and explained the object and plan of its work. A general approbation has almost universally been given to them, and I fondly hope that a hearty cooperation will be realized. But the failure of a number of our county Secretaries to report to our State Secretaries to report to our State Secretaries, has in some degree interfered with our expectations in the measure of our success which we hoped would otherwise have been obtained. I trust that the year upon which we now enter will be distinguished from former years by a marked improvement in this particular. Improvement of our opportunity for more general and thorough correspondence for maturing a plan to increase the number of links in the chain of conventions, has resulted in the addition of two, Ohio and Michigan, making five states in the chain, viz.: Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota, whereby the presence of very valuable Sunday School friends of unsurpassed experience and success from New York and other States has been secured.

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My traveling expenses have been \$58.33, for books, stationery, postage, etc.

Cash received from Treasurer, \$58.33. On the 1st day of June, 1864, balance due me \$40.73.

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For all these I not only thank you, but devoutly pray that both you and I may receive from the Divine clemency the full forgiveness of all our sins, and the sanctification of the Holy Spirit. If in sincerity you think the cause of Christ can in the least degree be better served by a change, I truly hope no more personal consideration towards me will withhold it, for upon no other grounds would I consent to a re-election, than the best service of the blessed Master. Let our united prayer be "bless us, even us, O God as we now bend before thy Mercy seat. Rebuke our faithlessness, warm our love, quicken our graces, let us live more constantly under the influence and power of the world to come. And now unto him that is able to keep us from falling and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our Saviour be glory and majesty, dominion and power, now and forever—Amen.

W. H. BYRON.

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WALLETS! WALLETS!—A
general assortment, to which the attention of
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8my16d1u
L'AVITT & DEARBORN.

CONGRESS WATER—Fresh from
the Springs of England, at the
corner of 8my16d1u